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Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MONTEV 03023 052257Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
----------126170 052303Z /65
O 052103Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4419

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTEVIDEO 3023

NODIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (TODMAN, TERENCE A.), UY
SUBJ: TODMAN VISIT

1. YESTERDAY WE LEARNED OF INCREASING INTEREST AND SOME SENSITIVITY WITHIN THE MILITARY HIERARCHY TO A POSSIBLE MEETING BETWEEN YOU AND CIVILIAN POLITICAL LEADERS FROM THE BLANCO AND COLORADO PARTIES. AS YOU RECALL, I HAVE PROPOSED TO YOU SUCH A MEETING FOR THE MORNING OF AUG. 19. WE HAVE NOT SHARED OUR PROPOSAL WITH THE GOVERNMENT, BUT THERE IS SPECULATION THAT SUCH A MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE.

2. LAST EVENING, AIR FORCE CINC PALADINI AND HIS CHIEF OF STAFF INDICATED TO OUR AIR ATTACHE THAT THE ARMED FORCES WOULD NOT LOOK KINDLY ON A MEETING WITH COLORADO AND BLANCO LEADERS. THEY CATEGORIZED JORGE BATLLE OF THE COLORADO PARTY AS AN "OPPONENT" OF THE GOVERNMENT, AND CAUTIONED THAT, IF BATLLE AND OTHER POLITICIANS MET WITH US, THEY COULD BE SUBJECT TO ARREST UNDER THE INSTITUTIONAL ACT WHICH PROSCRIBES POLITICAL ACTIVITY.

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3. SEPARATELY, THE PAO WAS TOLD BY A MILITARY OFFICIAL OF THE NATIONAL INFORMATION DIRECTORATE, A MOUTHPIECE FOR THE GOVERNMENT AND THE ARMED FORCES, THAT HE SAW NO PROBLEM IN YOUR MEETING WITH POLITICAL LEADERS. HE QUIPPED, "LET THEM TALK AND TELL THEIR STUPIDITIES; WE ARE GOING TO TALK TO TODMAN AND TELL THE TRUTH."

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4. OUR BEST ESTIMATE IS THAT PALADINI IS REFLECTING
THE VIEWS OF SOME OF THE MILITARY HIERARCHY, BUT NOT
THE MAJORITY. BUT WE HAVE NO WAY OF TESTING THAT
THESIS WITHOUT POSSIBLY FUELING THE ISSUE AT THIS POINT.
THE MILITARY HIERARCHY BEGAN A RETREAT TODAY WHICH ENDS
TUESDAY OF NEXT WEEK TO DISCUSS SOME PERSON-
NEL CHANGES IN THE HIGH COMMAND OCCASIONED BY THE
COMPULSORY RETIREMENT OF GENERAL CRISTI, COMMANDER OF
THE MONTEVIDEO MILITARY REGION. WE ALSO UNDERSTAND
THERE MAY BE SOME DISCUSSION OF A POLITICAL OPENING,
ALTHOUGH THIS HAS NOT BEEN CONFIRMED. YOUR VISIT, THE
POSTURE THEY WILL ASSUME IN DISCUSSIONS WITH YOU, AND
THE POSITION THEY TAKE ON CONTACTS WITH POLITICAL
GROUPINGS DURING YOUR VISIT UNDOUBTEDLY ALSO WILL BE
PRINCIPAL TOPICS OF DISCUSSION.

5. I HAD ALREADY DECIDED THAT WE WOULD PRESENT YOUR
FULL SCHEDULE TO PROTOCOL, INCLUDING THE MEETING
WITH POLITICAL LEADERS, ONCE WE HAD FULL AGREEMENT ON
THE ITINERARY. I STILL PLAN TO DO SO, BUT ONLY AFTER
THE MILITARY HIGH COMMAND IS BACK IN TOWN SO THAT I
CAN INFORM THEM CONCURRENTLY WITH PROTOCOL. THIS
SHOULD TAKE PLACE JUST PRIOR TO MY COURTESY CALL ON
THE CINCS FOLLOWING PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS ON
AUGUST 10. IF THE CINCS REACT STIFFLY, I WILL TAKE
IT UP AT THAT TIME AND MAKE CLEAR THAT IT WOULD BE
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IMPOSSIBLE TO HAVE YOU GAIN A FULL APPRECIATION OF THE
CURRENT SITUATION IN URUGUAY WITHOUT MEETING WITH A
WIDE RANGE OF URUGUAYANS, INCLUDING FORMER POLITICAL
LEADERS. I WOULD ADD THAT YOU WILL BE MEETING WITH
SUCH FORMER LEADERS AS FREI AND ALESSANDRI IN CHILE
AND THAT TO DO LESS IN URUGUAY
WOULD REFLECT ADVERSELY ON THIS COUNTRY AND BRING
INTO QUESTION THE ADVISABILITY OF YOUR STOPPING HERE
AT ALL.

6. I REMAIN HOPEFUL THAT PALADINI'S COMMENT WILL NOT
GAIN CURRENCY AND THAT THE GOU WILL SHY AWAY FROM MAKING
THIS AN ISSUE. WE WILL DO WHAT WE CAN TO STEER THEM IN
THE DIRECTION OF REASONABLENESS.
PEZZULLO

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 05-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Expiration:
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Format: TEL
From: MONTEVIDEO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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SAS ID: 1699210
Secure: OPEN
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Subject: TODMAN VISIT
TAGS: OVIP, PGOV, PINT, UY, US, (TODMAN, TERENCE A), (BATLLE, JORGE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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